

House Resolution

No. 67

Introduced by Assembly Member Nunez

August 12, 2004

House Resolution No. 67—Relative to commending the Honorable John A. Dutra.

1 WHEREAS, The tenure of the Honorable John A. Dutra with
2 the California State Assembly is drawing to a close following six
3 years of exemplary service, and it is appropriate at this time to
4 highlight the many achievements of his illustrious tenure and to
5 extend to him the highest commendations of the people of the
6 state; and

7 WHEREAS, Assembly Member John Dutra, who likes to call
8 himself a “fiscal conservative with a social conscience,” can trace
9 his politics back to an amazing life journey; despite a childhood of
10 poverty, John Dutra has gone on to become a successful
11 businessman and three-term member of the California State
12 Assembly, and, a pragmatist when it comes to business issues, he
13 has never forgotten that government programs helped him excel;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, John Dutra was born in the East Bay to immigrant
16 parents from the mid-Atlantic islands of the Azores, and when he
17 was five years of age, his father died, forcing his mother to turn to
18 public assistance to support her five children; and

19 WHEREAS, Hard times led John Dutra to drop out of Oakland’s
20 Fremont High School to care for his mother and siblings, and he
21 eventually enlisted in the United States Navy, where he served for
22 four years, and following his honorable discharge from the Navy,

1 he utilized the G.I. Bill and earned bachelor's and master's degrees
2 from San Jose State University; and

3 WHEREAS, For 12 years, John Dutra worked for Lawrence
4 Livermore Laboratory in the nondestructive testing unit and, later,
5 in the hazards control division; an interest in real estate led him
6 down another path, and in 1972, he founded Dutra Realty
7 Enterprises Inc., in the rapidly growing city of Fremont; and

8 WHEREAS, Until it was sold in 1999, Dutra Realty Enterprises
9 Inc. grew to more than \$900 million in annual sales and employed
10 more than 250 real estate agents in six East Bay offices, and
11 included home loan and investment subsidiaries; the family firm,
12 re-established in 1999 as Dutra Enterprises, Inc., has since grown
13 to become a successful commercial and residential real estate
14 consulting and investment business; and

15 WHEREAS, In 1980, John Dutra's career took a turn toward
16 public service when he was appointed to the Fremont Planning
17 Commission, and in 1986, he was elected to the Fremont City
18 Council, where he served for more than ten years; and

19 WHEREAS, John Dutra became well known as a
20 straight-talking guardian of the public finances, and he routinely
21 contributed his council salary to charity and rarely accepted
22 reimbursements for his expenses; and

23 WHEREAS, In 1998, John Dutra was elected to the State
24 Assembly, and in his first two-year term, he saw more of his bills
25 signed into law than any other rookie Assembly Member that
26 session; and

27 WHEREAS, In November 2000, and again in November 2002,
28 John Dutra was elected to his second and third terms in the State
29 Assembly; and

30 WHEREAS, From 2000 to February 2004, he distinguished
31 himself as Chair of the Assembly Transportation Committee, and
32 he currently is Chair of Budget Subcommittee on State
33 Administration; and

34 WHEREAS, Throughout his years in the Assembly, John Dutra
35 was author of legislation on a wide range of issues, among the most
36 significant being landmark transportation funding legislation,
37 legislation establishing the Spinal Cord Injury Research Fund and
38 the Veterans' Bond Act of 2000 and legislation on county
39 design-build contracts, fire safe mattress requirements, state
40 special schools teacher pay equity, and prenatal HIV testing; and



1 WHEREAS, John Dutra and his wife of 47 years, Bernadine, are
2 the proud parents of five children, and their family has grown to
3 include 14 grandchildren and 1 great-grandson; and

4 WHEREAS, Through his public service activities, John Dutra
5 has made a significant impact on the people of the 20th Assembly
6 District and throughout the state, and he will be greatly missed by
7 those individuals with whom he has been associated; now,
8 therefore, be it

9 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the
10 Members express their commendations and appreciation to their
11 colleague, the Honorable John A. Dutra, for his outstanding record
12 of dedicated service to his constituents and to all of the people of
13 California, and convey to him best wishes for every success in his
14 future endeavors.

